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Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Programme 28. Economic and social affairs

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, *inter alia*, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify the narrative of programmes 5, Policy coordination and sustainable development, 7, Economic and social information and policy analysis, and 8, Development support and management services, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996 and issued in document A/51/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1.

4. In his reports entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform" (A/51/950 and Add.1-7) and "United Nations reform: measures and proposals" (A/52/303 and Add.1 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General proposed, *inter alia*, the consolidation of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis and the Department for Development Support and Management Services into a new Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The General Assembly, in its resolutions 52/12 A of 12 November and B of 19 December 1997, entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform", and 52/220 and 52/221 of 22 December 1997, both on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, endorsed those proposals.

5. As a result of those decisions of the General Assembly, it is proposed to delete programmes 5, 6 and 8 in their entirety and to consolidate, as relevant, the narratives of those programmes under a new programme 28, Economic and social affairs, as set out below.

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Programme 28. Economic and social affairs

28.1 The overall orientation of the programme is to further, as a central mission of the Organization, the promotion of development and to strengthen the contribution of the United Nations to international cooperation in the economic and social fields. The United Nations is in a unique position to address the challenges of promoting development in the context of the globalization of the world economy and the deepening interdependence among nations. The programme will facilitate a more active and effective role of the Organization in promoting international cooperation for development and provide policy guidance on global development issues. The consolidation under this programme of the economic and social activities previously carried out under three separate programmes serves to reinforce the organizational capabilities available at Headquarters. It also improves the overall effectiveness of the Secretariat, which is now in a position to provide integrated support for policy formulation, analytical and normative functions and relevant technical cooperation activities. The programme maintains a distinct capacity for gathering and analysing economic and social data, consolidates capacities for policy analysis and coordination and strengthens support in the key areas of sustainable development, social development and gender issues and the advancement of women. It also enhances substantive support for the intergovernmental processes in the economic, social and environmental spheres.

28.2 Furthermore, the integration of the three programmes creates a crucial interface between global policies and national action and between research, policy and operational activities, thereby facilitating the translation of international agreements into strategies at the country level and feeding back lessons learned and experiences gained from the country level into the international policy development process. This integration serves to enhance Secretariat support for coherent and integrated policy development by the concerned intergovernmental bodies and reinforces coordination between the intergovernmental and the intersecretariat machineries.

28.3 In implementing the programme, particular attention will be paid to the special needs of Africa, the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as to South-South cooperation. The programme will be further guided by the need for empowering women, which is essential to the achievement of its goals, *inter alia,* through gender mainstreaming, advocacy and design of policies to achieve relevant targets.

28.4 The mandates for the programme, which is under the responsibility of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, derive from (a) the Secretariat's responsibility to provide substantive support to the General Assembly, in particular the Second and Third Committees, and the Economic and Social Council and relevant subsidiary bodies; (b) relevant resolutions concerning international economic cooperation; and (c) resolutions on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, on operational activities for development, on public administration and development and on relevant aspects of the mandate of the Secretary-General, including his responsibilities as the Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination. The Agenda for Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/240 of 20 June 1997 provides a broad frame of reference and policy guidance for the activities in support of international cooperation for development. The overall policy framework for the programme is based also on the programmes and platforms of action adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women.

28.5 By the end of the period covered by the plan, it is expected that the Department, by integrating capacities for normative, analytical, statistical and technical cooperation activities to maximize the complementarity and synergy within its organizational components, would have accomplished the following:

(a) Strengthened the role of the Organization as a forum for debate and consensus-building in the economic and social spheres and facilitated international debate and dialogue on development cooperation;

(b) Rendered better assistance to Member States, through the provision of effective support to standing political processes and relevant ad hoc processes, in the development of integrated and coordinated policy responses to development issues and to emerging global problems, including in negotiating global agreements on norms, standards and cooperative action, as well as in enhancing the effectiveness of operational activities for development;

(c) Promoted and monitored, as appropriate, the implementation of agreed plans, strategies, programmes or platforms for action, including the outcome of United Nations conferences for which the Department has responsibility;

(d) Improved support to the coordination function of central intergovernmental bodies and provided better assistance to the Secretary-General in enhancing policy coherence and coordination, both within the United Nations and among organizations of the United Nations system;

(e) Improved analytical work for better monitoring, analysis and evaluation of global economic and social policies and trends, including population trends, enhanced the framework of projection and identification of new and emerging issues, provided a more effective mainstreaming of gender issues and monitoring of advancement and empowerment of women, enabled a better understanding of the role of the State and the public sector in development and facilitated the formulation and monitoring of development strategies and goals at the international, regional and national levels through better dissemination of analytical statistical data and economic and social indicators;

(f) Supported the efforts of Governments in formulating development strategies and building their national capacities aimed at sustained economic growth and sustainable development in such fields as economic and social development, gender issues and advancement of women, public administration and finance, and natural resources and energy management, through the provision of more effective advisory services, at the request of Governments, supplemented by research and training;

(g) Enabled a more effective review of emerging issues and better sharing of experiences and best practices at the national level;

(h) Strengthened the human, institutional and policy-making capabilities of Member States, particularly by bolstering, whenever appropriate, South-South arrangements, taking into account the outcomes and commitments of relevant United Nations conferences and other relevant decisions by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant intergovernmental bodies in this regard;

(i) Facilitated linkages between the United Nations and civil society, within the framework of relevant mandates, and developed innovative means of cooperation and modes of partnership in areas of common interest, including operational activities for development at the country level.

Subprogramme 28.1 Economic and Social Council support and coordination

28.6 The goal of the subprogramme, which is implemented by the Division for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination, is to strengthen the policy management and coordinating roles of the Economic and Social Council as well as enable the Council to better fulfil its role in the macroeconomic policy coordination dialogue. The main objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To develop proposals and provide support to central intergovernmental bodies for the integrated and coordinated policy responses to issues of development and to emerging global problems in the economic and social fields;

(b) To facilitate and promote greater cooperation and collaboration among the organizations of the United Nations system active in the economic and social areas;

(c) To increase the Organization's capacity to serve as a focal point for the non-governmental organizations with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and to improve coordination of activities of non-governmental organizations, in accordance with the procedures of the United Nations, so as to avoid duplication and ensure complementarity and to enhance opportunities to facilitate participation of relevant elements of civil society in the activities of intergovernmental bodies, in accordance with the decisions of those bodies;

(d) To promote and strengthen coherence and restructuring within the United Nations system in the area of operational activities for development. To that end, the Department will seek to improve the efficiency and effectiveness, coherence and coordination of operational activities of the system at the country level, in particular those financed on a grant basis in support of development efforts, and to encourage integration with national efforts through such approaches as a programme approach, national execution and country strategy notes, at the request of the recipient Governments as may be appropriate;

(e) To promote the implementation of the decisions taken by major United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related areas.

Subprogramme 28.2 Gender issues and advancement of women

28.7 The subprogramme, implemented by the Division for the Advancement of Women, will seek to achieve effective support for the implementation of actions contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, including through expanded interaction with civil society. As set out in chapter V of the Platform for Action, and in other intergovernmental decisions, the subprogramme will build on its nodal position within the Organization to promote mainstreaming of gender concerns, reflecting a rights-based approach centred on equality between women and men, to provide advisory services to Member States and to ensure accountability among all actors responsible for implementing the Platform for Action.

28.8 More specifically, the objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To monitor the extent to which the gender issues are mainstreamed in the work of intergovernmental forums and in policies and programmes of work of the departments and offices of the United Nations Secretariat, the organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and Member States, and to analyse and develop, as required, policy issues of increasing importance or which may be emerging as global trends, as well as to facilitate the debate of intergovernmental bodies, especially the Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly;

(b) To improve the monitoring of the extent of women's enjoyment of their human rights and of whether violations of those rights are dealt with by all human rights mechanisms, including, in particular through enhanced support to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

(c) To contribute to the development and strengthening of human rights mechanisms, including the optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination against Women, or the increased use of existing mechanisms, in particular in the context of the coordination and follow-up to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

(d) To provide effective support for the implementation of actions described in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and of related recommendations of other global conferences through policy analysis and monitoring activities and to undertake the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly in the year 2000 for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

(e) To strengthen the coordination of the monitoring of the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, to facilitate the intergovernmental monitoring of system-wide implementation of commitments under the Platform for Action, including support to the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, and to improve further the coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and its relevant mechanisms, such as the Special Rapporteur on violence against women;

(f) To provide gender advisory services to developing countries, at their request, in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, notably with regard to the full enjoyment of human rights by women, the establishment of national institutional mechanisms, the formulation of national action plans and strategies and such issues as governance and gender;

(g) To design and maintain a system of information exchange with Governments, including national mechanisms for the empowerment and advancement of women, and those constituencies actively following up the implementation of the Platform for Action.

Subprogramme 28.3 Social policy and development

28.9 This subprogramme, which is implemented by the Division for Social Policy and Development, will seek to strengthen international cooperation for social development, with particular attention to the three core issues of poverty eradication, employment generation and social integration, in the context of the comprehensive and detailed framework of commitments and policies for action by Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations provided by the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. The Division will draw upon the decisions taken by the Commission for Social Development regarding the multi-year programme of work on the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly in the year 2000 for a review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development.

28.10 More specifically, the objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To promote the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and to undertake preparation for the special session of the General Assembly in

the year 2000 for a review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. The subprogramme will promote common norms, policies and cooperative actions aimed at facilitating the realization, in an integrated manner, of the Summit's objectives and will develop integrated approaches to issues that cut across the economic, social and cultural domains, with particular emphasis on the contribution to social cohesion of policies to reduce poverty and achieve full employment. The subprogramme will also contribute to the efforts by the United Nations system for the eradication of poverty, in the context of both the objectives of the Summit and activities related to the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006);

(b) To promote the implementation and coordinate the preparation and monitoring of United Nations declarations and programmes of action relevant to social development, such as the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, the International Year of the Family (1994) and the International Year of Older Persons (1999). These activities relate principally to the integration into society of groups, as well as families, who, because of their vulnerability or lack of power, are not participating fully in the life of the community;

(c) To strengthen participation and cooperation among all actors concerned with social development, as well as promotion of actions towards accomplishing the priorities of national programmes and internationally agreed norms;

(d) To enable the world community to respond to persistent and emerging issues in socio-economic development through monitoring of socio-economic trends, identification of emerging issues and analysis of their implications for policy at the national and international levels;

(e) To enhance the technical and institutional capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to formulate and implement policies and programmes to promote social and economic development and to accelerate and support socio-economic aspects of reconstruction and rehabilitation processes in countries after conflicts through the provision, at the request of Governments, of advisory services, and by formulating, executing, monitoring and evaluating technical cooperation activities, including applied research.

Subprogramme 28.4 Sustainable development

28.11 The subprogramme, which is implemented by the Division for Sustainable Development, will seek to ensure the effective and coordinated implementation of Agenda 21 and other commitments made during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session and the decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as the resolutions and decisions of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development and the Committee on Natural Resources, as adopted by the Economic and Social Council.

28.12 The implementation of these activities will be carried out without prejudice to the role of the Secretariat as stated in other relevant programmes of the medium-term plan dealing with environment.

28.13 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To promote effective implementation of Agenda 21 and other commitments of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as the outcomes of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, and the achievement of sustainable development worldwide;

(b) To identify new issues to be brought to the attention of the Commission on Sustainable Development for its consideration, including the assessment of new critical areas of sustainability. To that end, the subprogramme will continue to develop a comprehensive framework to integrate better the social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development, taking into account the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for Sustainable Development for the period 1998-2002 adopted by the Economic and Social Council on the recommendation of the General Assembly;

(c) Within that context, a strong emphasis will be placed not only on the integration of relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral components of Agenda 21, but also on incorporating into that framework the results of other major United Nations conferences held in recent years;

(d) To monitor the implementation of sustainable development goals through the assessment of data collected at the national, regional and international levels, and to complete work (in cooperation with other United Nations and non-United Nations entities) on indicators of sustainable development and their application. The Secretariat will also continue to serve as a custodian of data provided by the Member States through national reports. Emphasis will be placed on facilitating the access of Governments and non-State actors to information, in electronic form, related to the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly;

(e) To strengthen coordinated approaches towards implementing the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development among the organizations of the United Nations system through the Inter-Agency Committee for Sustainable Development, for which the Division provides the secretariat. In that capacity, the Division will seek (i) to integrate further the concept of sustainable development into the work of all relevant United Nations organizations; and (ii) to coordinate the monitoring of the implementation of various parts of Agenda 21 to which different bodies of the United Nations, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, have been assigned the functions of task managers;

(f) In its work programme in support of the Commission for Sustainable Development, the Division will give the necessary attention to the economic and social dimensions of sustainability. It will also draw up specific programmes as follow-up to the decisions taken in Agenda 21 and by the Commission on Sustainable Development and the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session regarding the provision of adequate and predictable new and additional financial resources to developing countries, changing production and consumption patterns and mechanisms for the transfer of technology to those countries, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed in paragraph 34.14 (b) of Agenda 21, and address poverty as an overriding issue. Furthermore, pursuant to the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, support will be provided to intergovernmental processes on forests, freshwater and energy, as well as such new areas of international cooperation as tourism and transport;

(g) To promote a dialogue with and involvement of major groups, including business and industry, the scientific community, farmers and non-governmental organizations, in the work of the Commission and in sustainable development activities in general;

(h) To support South-South cooperation in the area of sustainable development, including through regional exchanges of experiences in the implementation of Agenda 21;

(i) To strengthen the capacity of Governments, at their request:

(i) To formulate sustainable development strategies and programmes to enable Governments and local communities to improve economic and social conditions among all vulnerable groups. Such strategies will include measures to expand community access to credit in rural areas and institutional assistance to income-generating artisanal industries and other small enterprises based on reliable access to energy, water and other natural resources, in particular in the least developed countries;

(ii) To foster effective planning and management of natural resources, promote an iterative and multi-sectoral approach to water resources management that integrates technological, socio-economic, environmental and human health considerations and involves local initiatives and participation in such development efforts and to formulate policies on mineral resources that encourage environmentally sound production practices;

(iii) To develop, utilize and commercialize new and renewable energy sources, to develop national and indigenous capacity in assessment and management of energy resources and services, to introduce changes in energy consumption patterns, focusing on conservation measures and demand-side management, to facilitate international and interregional connections for the transmission of electric power and transport of natural gas, and to promote technology transfer.

Subprogramme 28.5 Statistics

28.14 The subprogramme, for which the Statistical Division is responsible, will focus on the following main objectives during the period covered by the plan:

(a) Over the years, the subprogramme has contributed to the significant progress in the international collection, standardization, analysis and dissemination of economic, social and related data. The first objective is to improve the usefulness and accessibility of international economic and social data to policy makers, both international and national. The availability of international statistics and their usefulness for policy purposes will be broadened and their quality enhanced to reinforce the United Nations role as a centre of excellence in statistics. For example, given the increasing globalization of the world economy, an increasing number of decision makers at all levels will require data on international transactions. Accordingly, an essential task of the subprogramme will be to sustain the function of the United Nations as a global centre for data on international trade. The same will apply to systems dedicated to environment, energy, transport, national accounts and demographic and social statistics;

(b) A milestone was passed with the finalization of the 1993 System of National Accounts. The objective now is to expand the number of countries that are in a position to implement the new System. To achieve this objective, the Secretariat, in close collaboration with other international organizations, will continue to improve economic statistics in general and to promote the System in particular, including through training and other forms of technical cooperation;

(c) Agenda 21 calls for the development and implementation of integrated environmental and economic accounting and indicators of sustainable development in order to provide the information necessary to formulate policies and strategies for sustainable development at the national and international levels. A third objective will be to improve the international community's ability to measure the environmental impact of human activity and expenditures related to the environment. The subprogramme will address relevant concepts and methods in order to obtain international agreement on their use and usefulness, compile environmental statistics and indicators and promote the implementation of integrated environmental and economic accounts at the national level;

(d) The global conferences held in recent years have highlighted the need for more and better statistics to describe and monitor progress in the human dimensions of development. A fourth objective will be to develop and promote the use of consistent and integrated sets of social statistics (including, in particular, demographic, housing, gender and disability statistics), to develop and disseminate social indicators and to enhance analytical capabilities in this area. The subprogramme will pay particular attention to the implementation of the 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme and other activities aimed at improving country capability regularly to produce timely demographic and social statistics;

(e) To promote the use of geographical information systems for modern surveying and mapping activities at the national and local levels.

28.15 The subprogramme will also continue to emphasize the coordination and development of international statistical standards and classifications across a broad spectrum of statistics and provide for improved coordination and cooperation between the United Nations and other relevant statistics-producing intergovernmental organizations.

Subprogramme 28.6 Population

28.16 Population, with its various dimensions, is one of the major challenges confronting the international community. To address that challenge, the subprogramme, for which the Population Division is responsible, will aim at increasing the understanding of the nature of population phenomena, in particular, the interrelationships between population and development, and at providing technical cooperation in population. This increased understanding and knowledge will facilitate the work of the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission on Population and Development, in the substantive coordination of activities of the United Nations system in the field of population and the formulation of policy recommendations.

28.17 The objectives of this subprogramme are as follows:

(a) To expand the leading role of the Department (i) in providing accurate and timely information and analyses of population trends and policies, and (ii) in monitoring and reporting on substantive elements of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

(b) In order to formulate policy, Governments need information on population trends and their interrelationships with social and economic development. To that end, the subprogramme will facilitate the access by Governments to information on population trends and their interrelationships with social and economic development as an input to policy formulation through the preparation of the official United Nations demographic estimates and projections for all countries and areas of the world, as well as urban and rural areas and major cities. Those estimates and projections provide the standard and consistent sets of

population figures that are used throughout the United Nations system as the basis for activities requiring population information;

(c) The far-reaching consequences of population phenomena and their interrelationships with social and economic development are giving rise to increasing demands by countries and regions for relevant population information and analyses. A third objective will be to increase the understanding of the social, economic and other factors that will affect mortality, fertility, migration and population growth, and how population change, in turn, affects the social, economic and environmental conditions of people;

(d) Changing international demographic conditions, such as the AIDS pandemic, and new developments on such issues as international migration, as well as the ageing of populations, call for innovative strategies and policies at both the national and international levels. To that end, the subprogramme will increase awareness about emerging population issues requiring the attention of the international community;

(e) Another objective of the subprogramme is to increase Member States' capacity to formulate national population and related policies for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and to improve their institutional capabilities for the collection and analysis of national population information.

Subprogramme 28.7 Global development trends, issues and policies

28.18 The overall purpose of the subprogramme, for which the Division for Development Policy Analysis is responsible, will be to assist the international community in identifying emerging challenges and addressing persistent problems in global development. The subprogramme will enhance understanding of global economic and social issues and problems, contribute to improving national and international policies in these areas and facilitate the exploration of new forms of international cooperation for development. More specifically, the subprogramme will focus on three main objectives, as follows:

(a) To promote development and foster international economic cooperation through the exploration of national and international policy options. This will be achieved by monitoring and assessing, from a global perspective, economic and social developments and policies, especially those with an international dimension. Work will focus on economic reform and structural change in the developing countries, including their implications for economic growth and development, and on the economic and social transformation of the countries with economies in transition, including their integration into the world economy. It will also address the macroeconomic performance and policies of the industrialized countries and their effects on the world economy;

(b) To assist Governments in their consideration of issues pertaining to the financing of development, including trends in public and private international financial flows, the net transfer of resources to developing countries, the behaviour of global financial markets and international cooperation in these areas;

(c) To contribute to economic policy-making at the national and international levels and to assist Member States and intergovernmental bodies in the early identification of new and emerging issues in the world economy by providing short-term economic forecasts, assessments of development prospects, alternative scenarios and perspective studies of long-term global trends in economic and social development.

Subprogramme 28.8 Public economics and public administration

28.19 The goal of the subprogramme, which is implemented by the Division for Public Economics and Public Administration, is to assist intergovernmental policy deliberations on the role of public economics, public administration and public finance in the development process. The subprogramme also provides assistance to interested Governments of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in strengthening their institutional, human resources, policy-analysis and policy-making infrastructure, particularly with regard to the implementation of relevant commitments agreed upon at major United Nations conferences.

28.20 More specifically, the objectives of this subprogramme are:

(a) To meet the needs of Member States for information and policy-oriented analysis on the role of the State and market mechanisms in national efforts to ensure economic stability, to foster economic growth and to increase efficiency and distributional equity, by providing them with analytical studies on the current patterns and trends in the fields of public revenue and public expenditure, as well as on the potential and shortcomings of market solutions to problems of allocation, distribution and regulation of services and goods, in particular with regard to those services and goods which used to be provided by the State or the public sector, at the national and international levels;

(b) To respond to requests from Governments and intergovernmental bodies for information, methodologies, assessments and policy proposals regarding the linkages between political and economic issues and policies and to prepare reports, as required, on the economic and social impact of United Nations-imposed sanctions, the imposition of coercive economic measures, the implications of the peace-development link and selected aspects of post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction;

(c) To facilitate intergovernmental dialogue on available approaches, systems and methods in public administration and, in particular, to serve as a clearing house for information and experiences in the field of public administration for development, by utilizing new and cost-effective technological approaches in the collection, maintenance and dissemination of information, in particular best practices, with a view to adaptation and replication in interested countries;

(d) To strengthen the capacity of Governments, at their request, for policy development, administrative restructuring, civil service reform, human resources development and public administration training by improving performance in the public sector, increasing public/private sector interaction, improving the management of development programmes, enhancing government legal capacity, including the capacity to establish a regulatory framework for effective economic activities and elaborating strategies, at the request of interested countries, for the reconstruction of a viable public administration in the countries that are undergoing rehabilitation and reconstruction once a conflict is over;

(e) To broaden the resource mobilization and revenue administration capacities of Governments, to enhance the efficiency and performance of tax administration and to improve financial management skills in budgeting systems and techniques, accounting and auditing;

(f) To promote and enhance the dissemination of public sector information systems, including new techniques and modalities to improve the performance of public administration and the delivery of public services.

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 28.1 Economic and Social Council support and coordination

General Assembly resolutions

48/209	Operational activities for development: field offices of the United Nations development system
50/120	Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
50/227	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
51/240	Agenda for Development
52/12 A and B	Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform
52/186	Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international cooperation for development through partnership

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1986/72	Protection against products harmful to health and the environment
1996/31	Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations

Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions

1995/1	Coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

Subprogramme 28.2 Gender issues and advancement of women

General Assembly resolutions

34/180	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
48/121	World Conference on Human Rights
52/93	Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas
52/98	Traffic in women and girls
52/100	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
52/195	Women in development

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decision

1992/19	Communications on the status of women
1995/29	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
1996/6	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women
1996/34	System-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women
1997/227	Renewal of the mandate of the Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions

1997/2	Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system

***Subprogramme 28.3** Social policy and development*

General Assembly resolutions

50/81	World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond
50/107	Observance of the International Year of the Eradication of Poverty and proclamation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty
50/119	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation
50/120	Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
50/144	Towards full integration of persons with disabilities in society: implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and of the Long-term Strategy to Implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the Year 2000 and Beyond
51/58	The role of cooperatives in the light of new economic and social trends
52/25	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
52/80	International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages
52/81	Follow-up to the International Year of the Family
52/82	Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century

52/83 Policies and programmes involving youth

52/193 First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1996/7 Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the future role of the Commission for Social Development

1997/55 Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, including a World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth

Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions

1996/1 Coordination of the United Nations system activities for poverty eradication

Subprogramme 28.4 Sustainable development

General Assembly resolutions

47/190 Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

47/191 Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

50/116 Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

50/119 Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation

50/126 Water supply and sanitation

S-19/2 Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

1992/62 Establishment of new subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council

1996/44 Coordination of the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in the field of energy

1996/49 Integration of key minerals issues into the implementation of Agenda 21

1996/50 Integrated water resources development and management

1996/231 Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its fourth session and provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Commission

1996/303	Recommendations of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development at its second session
1997/53	Consumer protection
1997/63	Programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the period 1998-2002 and future methods of work of the Commission
1997/65	Establishment of an open-ended Intergovernmental Forum on Forests

Subprogramme 28.5 Statistics

General Assembly resolutions

47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
47/191	Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
48/121	World Conference on Human Rights
50/124	Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
50/161	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
50/203	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

1564 (L)	Principles and recommendations for a vital statistics system
1566 (L)	Coordination of work in the field of statistics
1989/3	International economic classifications
1993/5	1993 System of National Accounts
1993/226	Sixth and Seventh United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names
1995/7	2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme
1995/61	The need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States
1997/221	Fourteenth and Fifteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences for Asia and the Pacific
1997/292	Sixth and Seventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences for the Americas

Subprogramme 28.6 Population

General Assembly resolutions

47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
47/191	Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
48/121	World Conference on Human Rights
49/128	Report of the International Conference on Population and Development
50/161	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
50/203	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
51/176	Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
52/188	Population and development
52/189	International migration and development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1994/2	Work programme in the field of population
1995/55	Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
1997/2	International migration and development
1997/42	Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development

Commission on Population and Development resolutions and decisions

1995/1	Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development
1997/1	Technical symposium on international migration
1997/2	Reporting requirements to the Commission on Population and Development
1997/3	Work programme in the field of population
1998/1	Health and mortality

Subprogramme 28.7 Global development trends, issues and policies

General Assembly resolutions

S-18/3	Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries

47/190	Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
50/227	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
51/165	Net flows and transfer of resources between developing countries and developed countries
51/173	Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade
51/175	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy
51/240	Agenda for development
52/179	Global partnership for development: high-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development
52/180	Global financial flows and their impact on the developing countries
52/186	Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

Subprogramme 28.8 Public economics and public administration

General Assembly resolutions

46/166	Entrepreneurship
47/171	Privatization in the context of economic restructuring, economic growth and sustainable development
48/180	Entrepreneurship and privatization for economic growth and sustainable development
50/51	Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions
50/103	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s
50/119	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation
50/120	Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

50/161	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
50/225	Public administration and development
51/175	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy
51/240	Agenda for Development
51/242	Supplement to an Agenda for Peace
52/18	Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new and restored democracies
52/38 D	Relationship between disarmament and development
52/162	Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions
52/169 H	Economic assistance to States affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
52/181	Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries
52/193	First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty
52/196	Developing human resources for development
52/203	Operational activities for development of the United Nations
52/205	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries
52/209	Business and development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1273 (XLIII)	Tax treaties between developed and developing countries
1982/45	International cooperation in tax matters
1996/42	Progress on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/120
1997/59	Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation: follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly